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From:	The Commission
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 27 November 2020 AOB item - Institutionalised European Partnerships - state of play - Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on *Institutionalised European Partnerships - state of play* with a view to the AOB items at the Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 27 November 2020.

## **AOB – Institutionalised European Partnerships - state of play**

### *Information from the Commission*

Since the introduction of the European Research Area (ERA) and FP6, R&I Partnerships have evolved into strategic elements of national, European and industrial R&I policy and funding programmes. Following Member States<sup>1</sup> call for rationalisation of the EU R&I partnership landscape, it is envisaged that Horizon Europe makes substantial steps in this regard and puts forward a major simplification and reform for the Commission's policy on R&I partnerships by reducing their overall number, improving their openness, transparency and synergies with other relevant initiatives at EU, national and regional level. This new generation of European Partnerships is being prepared following an impact-driven and coherent approach to use their full potential in achieving the EU priorities for the green and digital transitions.

Institutionalised European Partnerships play an important role in the overall partnership landscape. Since the political agreement on Horizon Europe in 2019, intense work has been taking place to prepare the legal basis for eleven institutionalised European Partnerships. Two legal acts related to institutionalised European Partnerships are foreseen (in addition to a EuroHPC Joint Undertaking already adopted in September 2020):

- A proposal for a Council Regulation establishing nine Joint Undertakings (JUs)<sup>2</sup> (based on Art. 187 TFEU) under Horizon Europe – Single Basic Act (SBA);
- A proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council regarding the metrology partnership (based on Art. 185 TFEU).

The legal proposals for all eleven institutionalised European Partnerships are being prepared fully in line with the new impact-driven policy approach and criteria proposed for Horizon Europe, based on a coordinated impact assessment process.

The Single Basic Act establishing the nine Joint Undertakings is expected to contribute to the goal of a more coherent, strategic and impact-driven approach to European Partnerships. It would facilitate coherence and synergies between partnerships, and with other EU and national programmes. While incorporating the principles and criteria common for these partnerships in a joint text, the successful modalities identified in the past would be retained. It is aimed at ensuring consistency and transparency in the implementation, thereby simplifying the legal landscape and ensuring openness of the Joint Undertakings.

The Commission proposals for the Single Basic Act for nine Joint Undertakings and for the Article 185 initiative are foreseen to be adopted still this year, provided that there is an agreement on the MFF and agreed budget figures for the concerned partnerships, including commitment letters from partners other than the Union. Adoption of constituent acts in the second or third quarter 2021 will allow to still launch calls in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Council conclusions 15320/17, ERAC conclusions ERAC 1215/18,

<sup>2</sup> Nine Joint Undertakings: Circular Bio-based Europe, Clean Aviation, Clean Hydrogen, Europe's Rail, Global Health EDCTP3, Innovative Health Initiative, Key Digital Technologies, Single European Sky ATM Research 3, Smart Networks and Services.